# Shiranui Kitanroku

BY INAI KAORU

Kaito Zero

Translated and Edited by KazeYuki

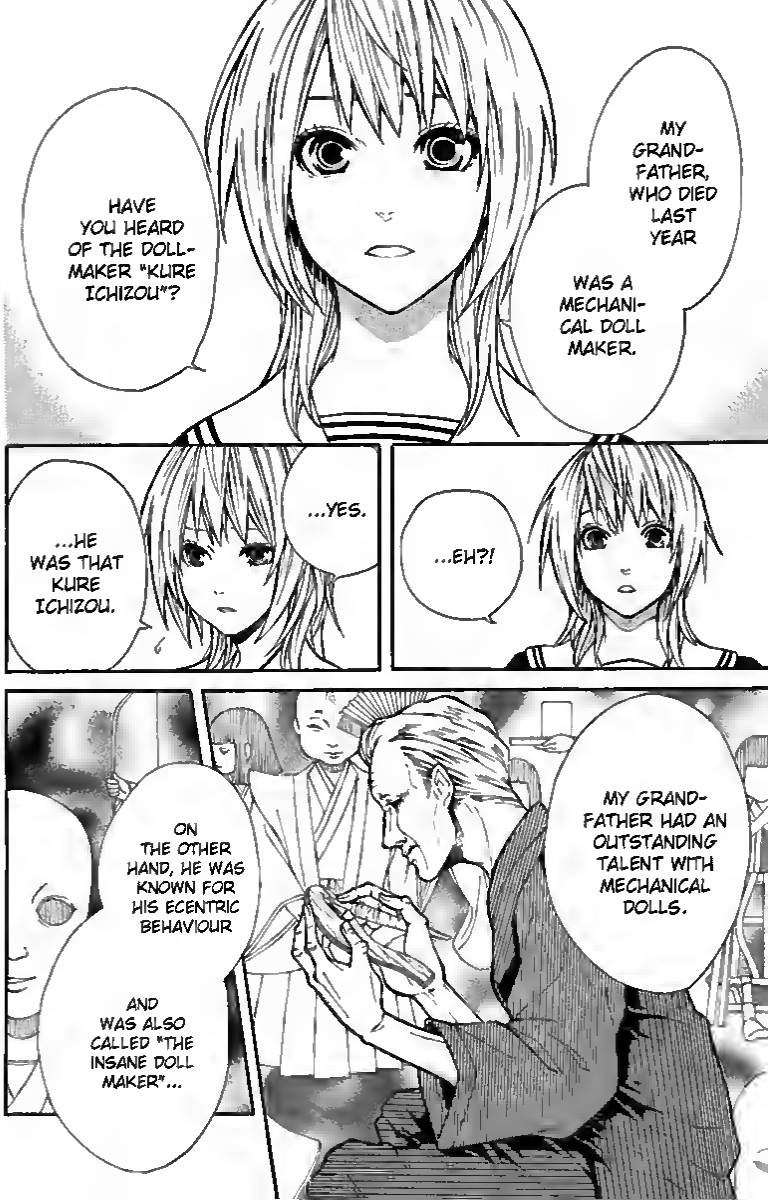
chapter 4

WOULD YOU LAUGH AT MY ABSURD TALE?

I THINK SO TOO...

BUT

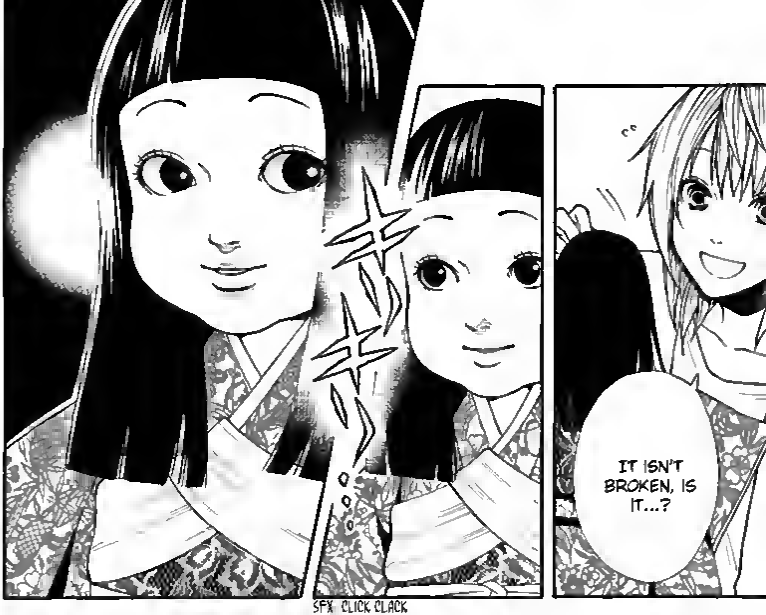
I WAS TOLD TO GET A SPECIALIST TO LOOK INTO IT SO...


MY GRAND-FATHER, WHO DIED LAST YEAR
WAS A MECHANI-CAL DOLL MAKER.
HAVE YOU HEARD OF THE DOLL-MAKER "KURE ICHIZOU"?
...EH?!
...YES.
...HE WAS THAT KURE ICHIZOU.
MY GRAND-FATHER HAD AN OUTSTANDING TALENT WITH MECHANICAL DOLLS.
ON THE OTHER HAND, HE WAS KNOWN FOR HIS ECENTRIC BEHAVIOUR
AND WAS ALSO CALLED "THE INSANE DOLL MAKER"...

DID YOU HEAR? ABOUT THE STATE OF HIS BODY
FUTHER-MORE, THE WAY HE DIED...
WAS EX-TREMELY... STRANGE .
AT NIGHT HE WOULD GIVE A STRANGE CRY AND JUMP OUT OF THE HOUSE ..
AND SEND WEIRD LETTERS TO THE PEOPLE LIVING AROND HIM .
OH THE LETTERS SAVE ME! IT'S TOO LATE / HE'S* / I CAN'T STAND IT ANYMORE / AHHH-HHH AHHHH!
*NOTE THE WORD USED あいつ CAN MEAN HE/SHE OR 'THAT THING
...EVEN SO
YATSUKO-SAN, WASN'T HE BEING HAUNTED BY SOMETHING STRANGE?
THAT WASN'T HOW A HUMAN BEING SHOULD DIE
THAT'S WHY, WHEN IT WAS THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF HIS DEATH, I WENT TO CLEAN HIS HOUSE
TO ME, HE WAS MY KIND AND PRECIOUS GRANDFA-THER

WOW...
IT HASN'T CHANGED AT ALL!
ぱたぱた…
SFX: PATTER PATTER
THE WORK ROOM IS STILL EXACTLY THE SAME!
BUT, AS I EXPECTED, THE NUMBER OF DOLLS HAVE DE-CREASED...
MOST HAVE THEM HAVE BEEN SOLD ALREADY.

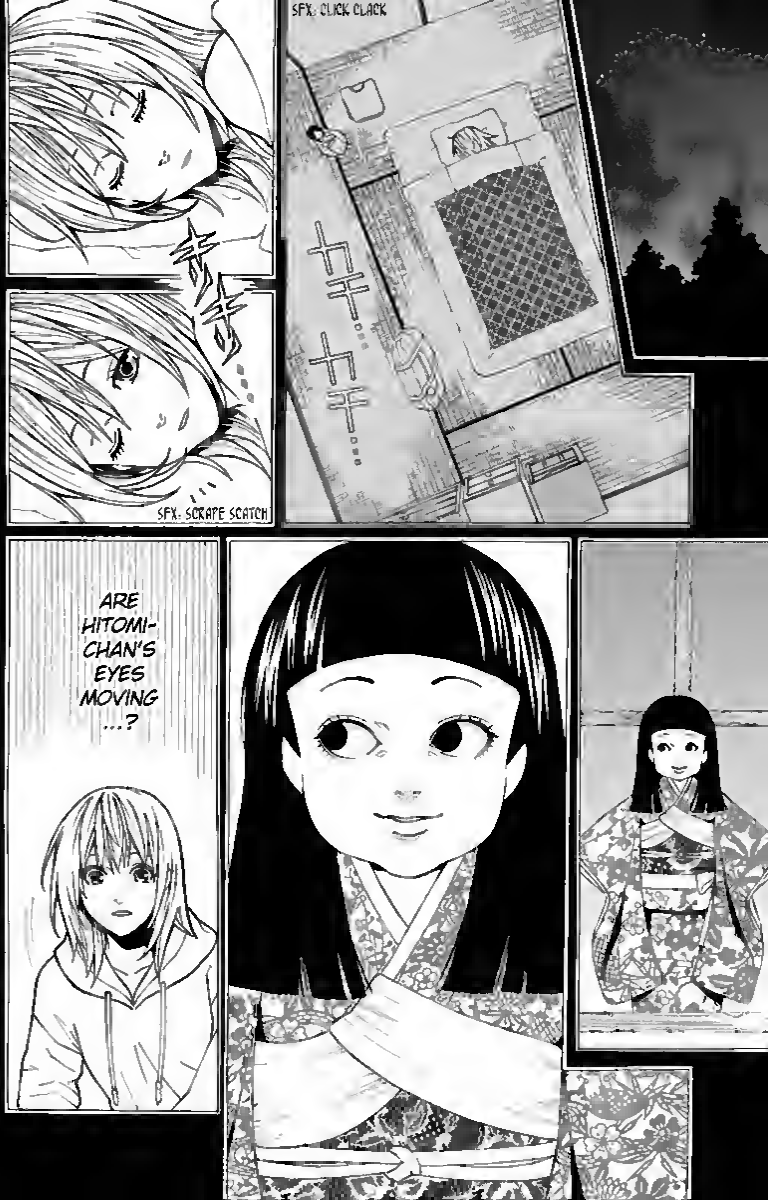
!
THIS IS...
I KNEW IT!
IT'S "HITOMI-CHAN"!
"HITOMI-CHAN" WAS MADE IN MY GRANDPA'S LATER YEARS AND IS HIS BEST WORK.

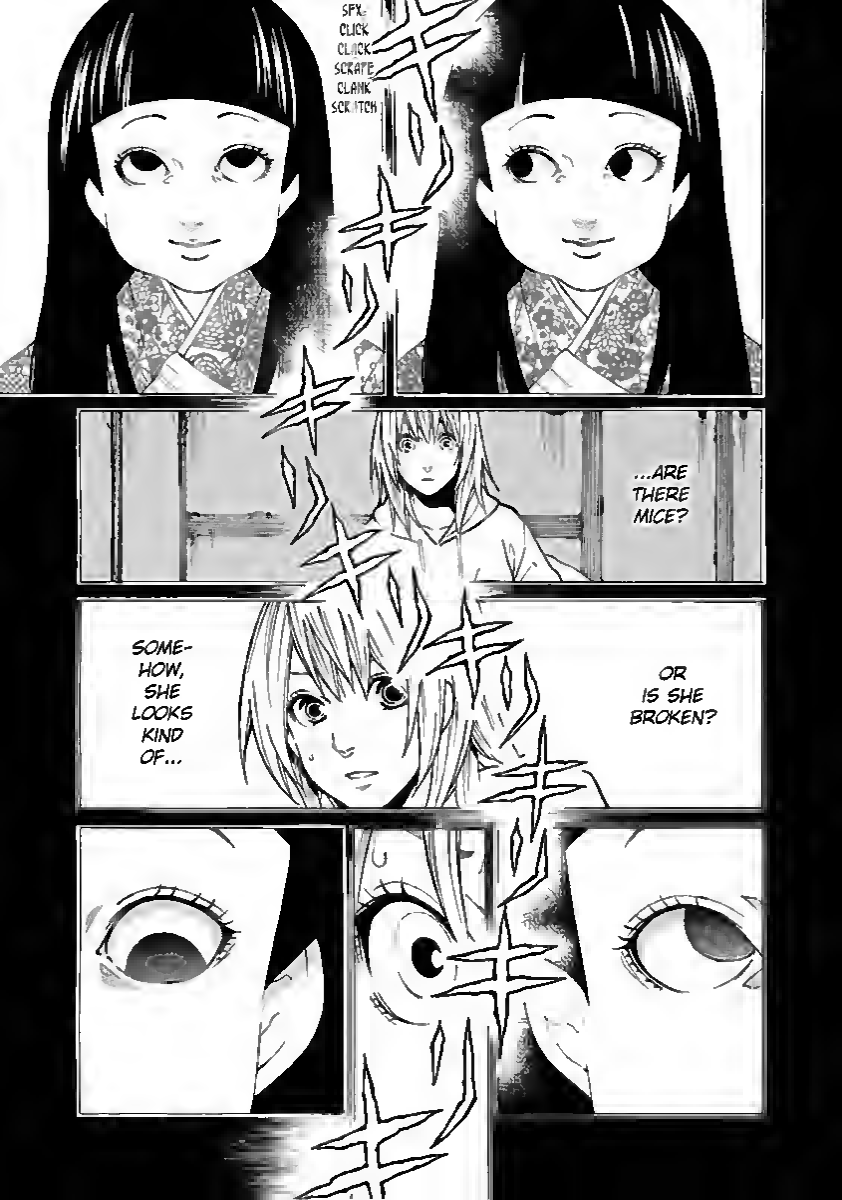

IT ISN'T BROKEN, IS IT...?
SFX CLICK CLACK

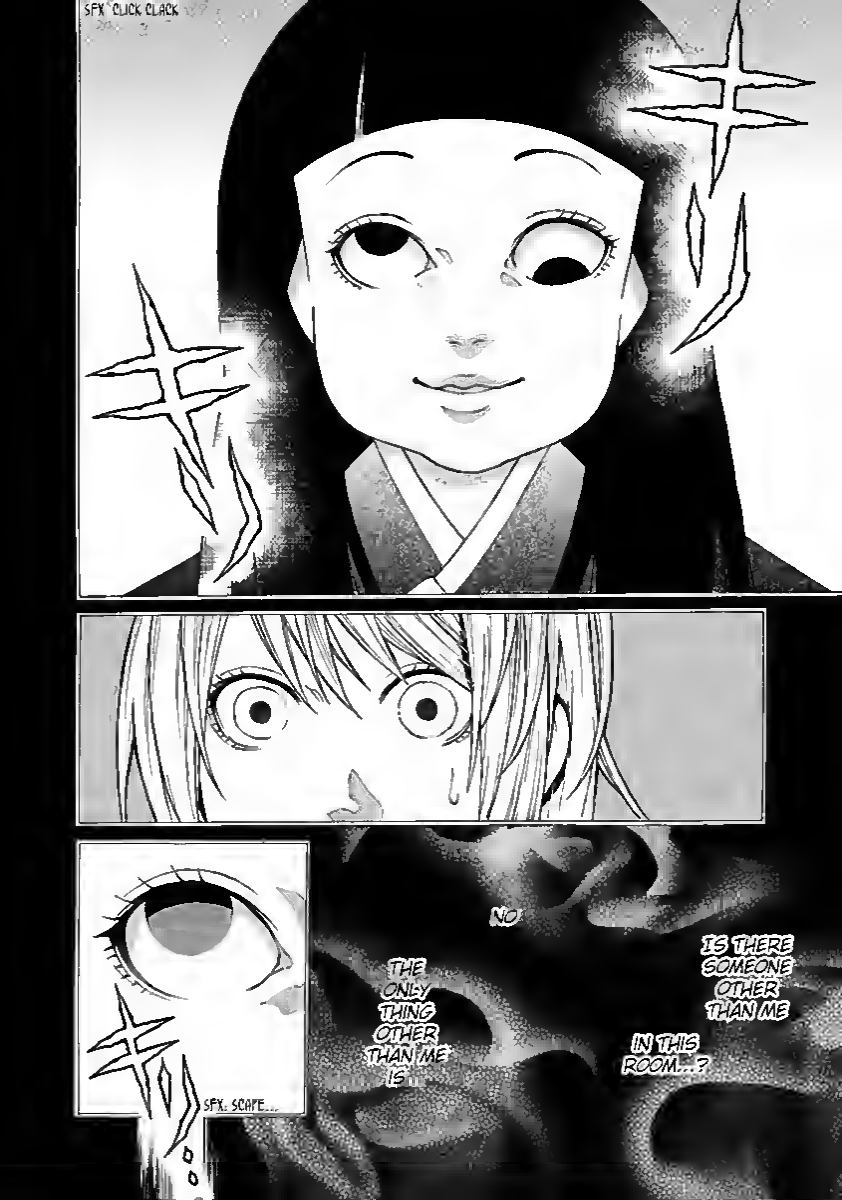
Wow!
SHE LOOKED THIS WAY!
...THAT'S RIGHT

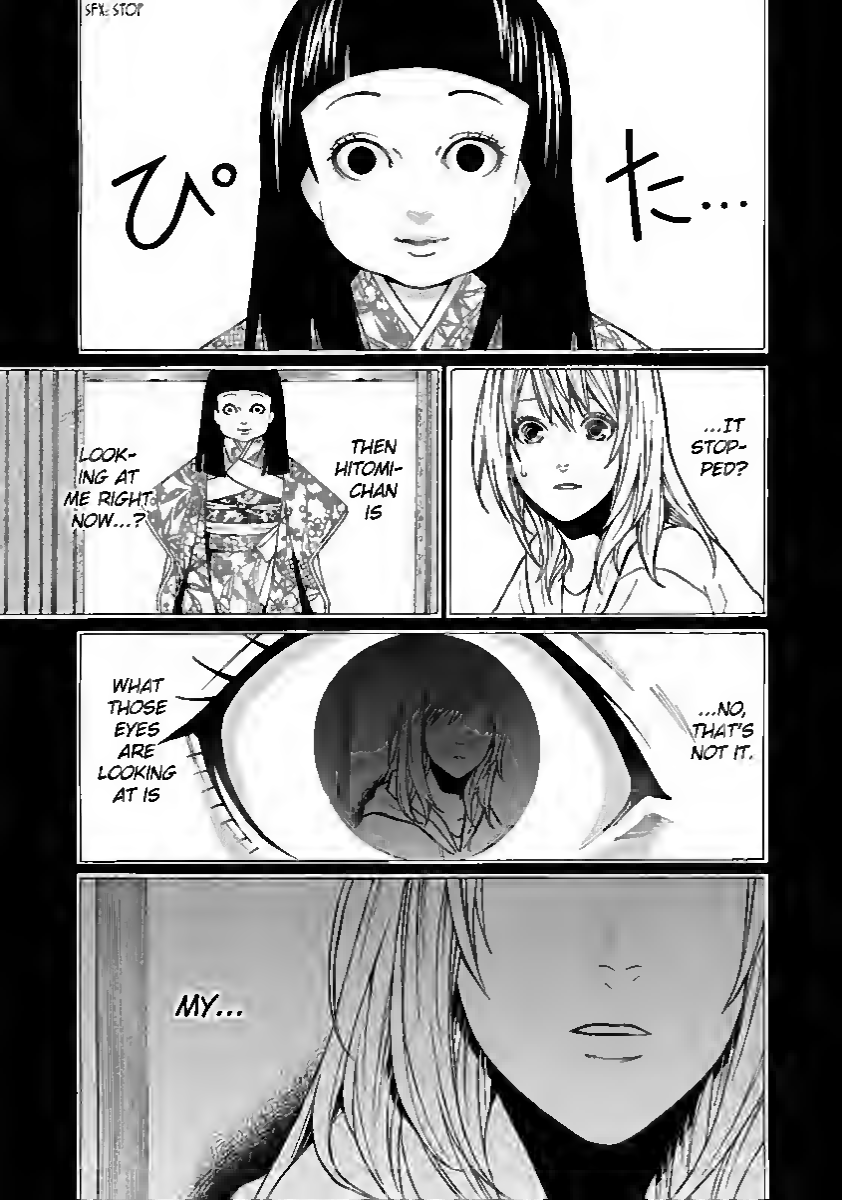
SHE IS A DOLL THAT CAN SENSE THE PRESENCE OF LIVING THINGS AND ACCORDINGLY, TURN HER PUPILS TO THAT DIRECTION.
WHETHER WHAT SHE IS REACTING TO IS SOUND OR HEAT ..
IS A SECRET THAT ONLY THE DOLL-MAKER, MY GRANDPA, KNOWS. THE ULTIMATE DOLL..

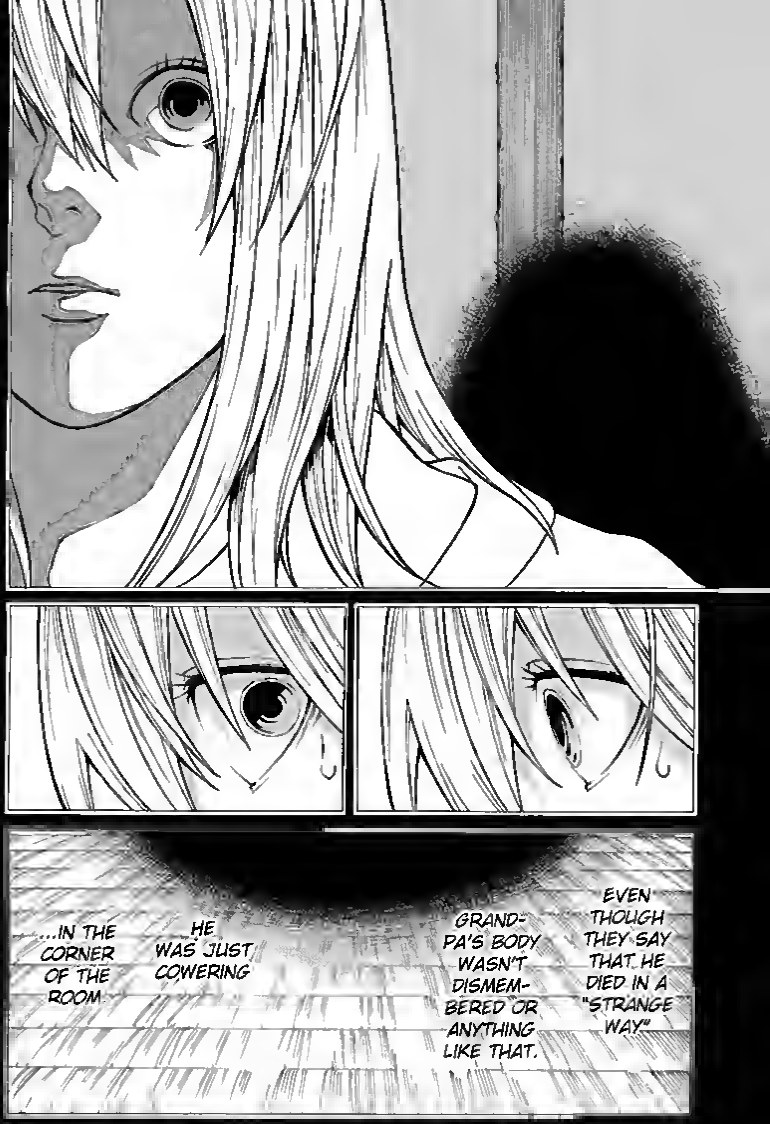
IT'LL BE A BIT IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME TO TAKE ALL OF THEM BUT..
I WONDER IF I CAN TAKE HITOMI-CHAN AND ONE OTHER ONE HOME?
AH! I REMEMBER THIS ONE TOO
QUITE A FEW OF THE OLD DOLLS WERE LEFT BEHIND THIS BRINGS BACK MEMORIES
SFX: CLINK
コト…
SFX: FLOP
ポフ…
I'LL PUT YOU HERE AND
WHILE YOU'RE SLEEPING, BE CAREFUL NOT TO BUMP INTO ANYTHING, OKAY?
IT'S ALREADY SO LATE
I THINK I'LL RING MUM TOMORROW TO ASK HER


SFX: CLICK CLACK
SFX: SCRAPE SCRATCH
ARE HITOMI-CHAN'S EYES MOVING ...?


SFX: CLICK CLICK SCRAPE CLANK SCRATCH
...ARE THERE MICE?
SOME-HOW, SHE LOOKS KIND OF...
OR IS SHE BROKEN?

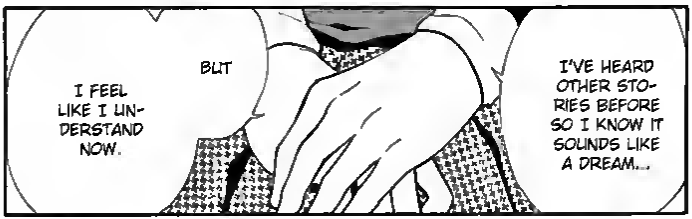

SFX: CLICK CLACK
NO
IS THERE SOMEONE OTHER THAN ME IN THIS ROOM...?
THE ONLY THING OTHER THAN ME IS...
SFX: SCAPE...


SFX: STOP
ぴ
た…
LOOK-ING AT ME RIGHT NOW...?
THEN HITOMI-CHAN IS
...IT STOP-PED?
WHAT THOSE EYES ARE LOOKING AT IS
...NO, THAT'S NOT IT.
MY...

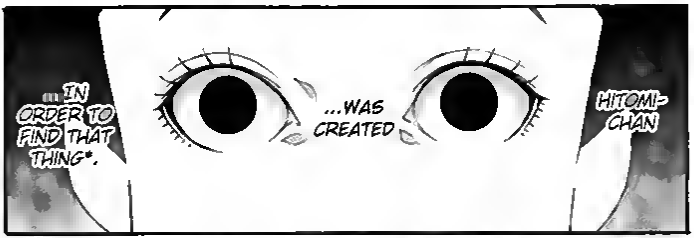

EVEN THOUGH THEY SAY THAT, HE DIED IN A "STRANGE WAY."
GRAND-PA'S BODY WASN'T DISMEM-BERED OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT.
HE WAS JUST COWERING
...IN THE CORNER OF THE ROOM

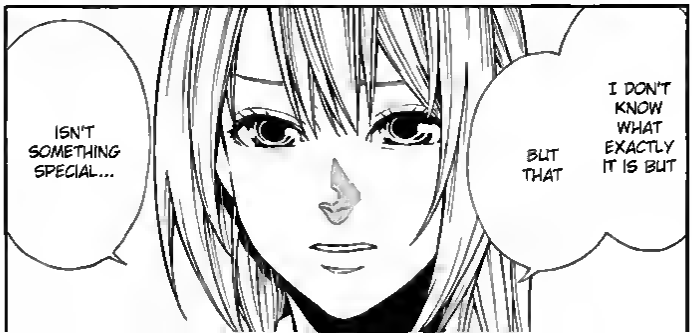
I HEARD THAT MY GRANDPA, WHO HAD FOLDED HIMSELF UP SO SMALL, WAS
"BENT OVER LIKE AN UN-FINISHED MECHANICAL DOLL."
AND HITOMI-CHAN, WHO WAS SITTING ON THE TABLE, WAS STARING AT HIM.
IT'S JUST THAT
ONLY HITOMI-CHAN
SFX: CLICK
SFX: CLICK
SFX: CLICK

SFX: GONG GONNG
SFX: JUMP
ばっ
SFX: CLATTER
...WITH THAT, I LEAPED OUT OF GRANDPA'S HOUSE.
SFX: CRACK CRACK SNAP
コキ…パキパキ…
AND SPENT THE NIGHT AT ANOTHER PLACE.
コキ
SFX: SNAP
はなたれ…
SFX: THUP THUP

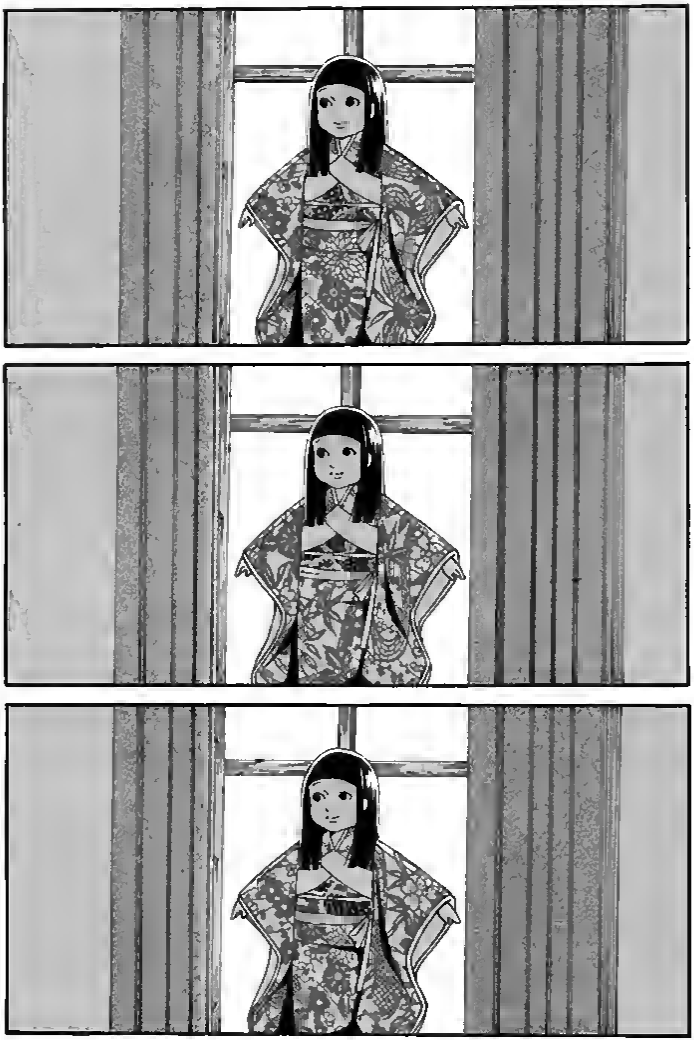


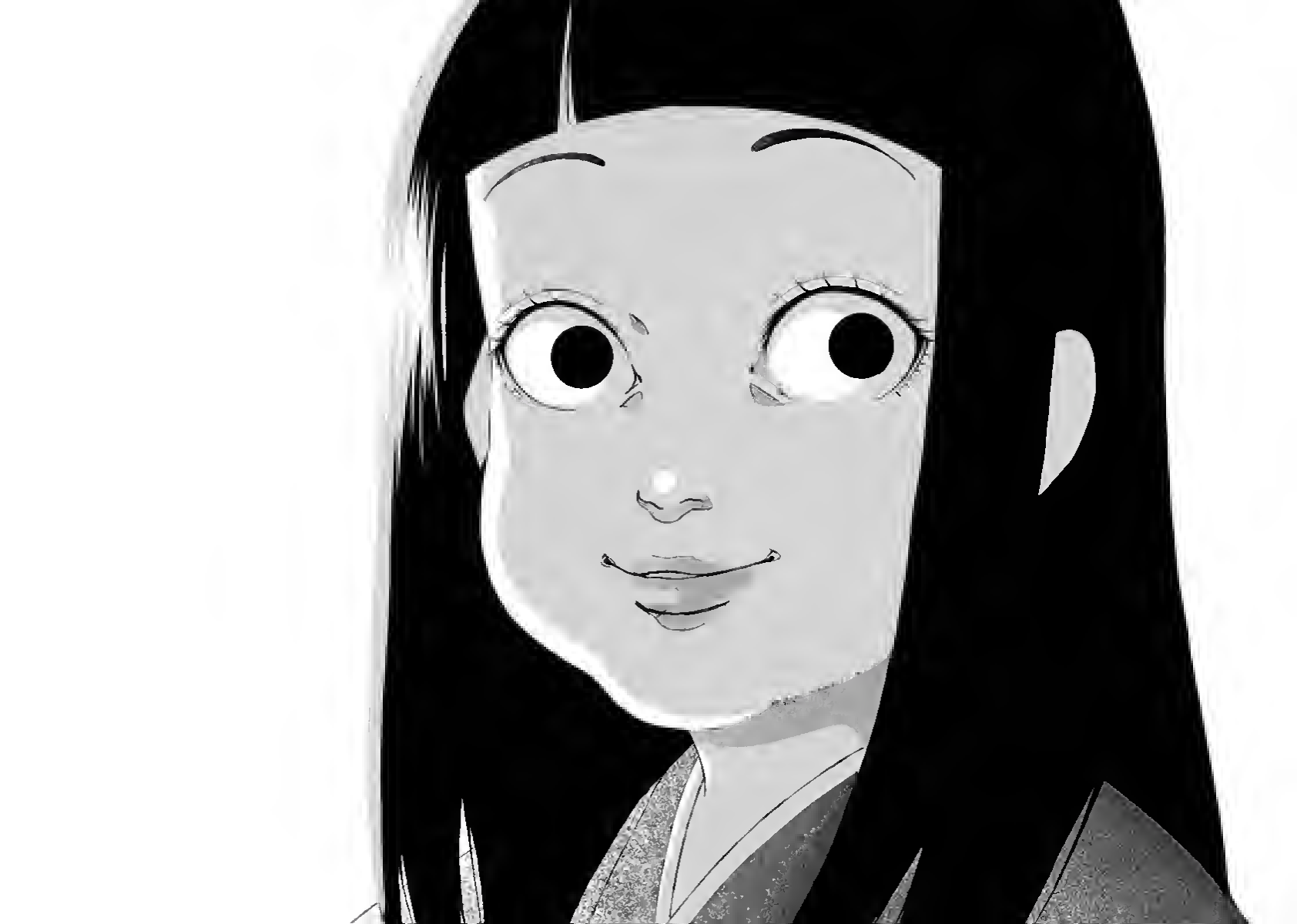

*NOTE: THE WORD USED あいつ CAN MEAN HE/SHE OR THAT THING



I FEEL LIKE 'THAT THING' IS SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
IT WOULDN'T BE STRANGE IF IT WAS RIGHT BEHIND SOMEONE
IN THE SHADOWS OF THE DESK
IN THE CORNERS OF THE BATHHOUSE OR
..SINCE THEN, I'VE MADE SURE NOT TO GO NEAR MY GRANDPA'S HOUSE.
WATCHING 'THAT THING'...
EVEN NOW HITOMI-CHAN IS IN THAT HOUSE





To be continued...

SFX: CRICK CLACK